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PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair would recognize Senator Schimek to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm hopeful that this bill won't take as long, now that we've had some of the philosophical discussions, but let me go through the bill. I'm not going to go through it section by section because some of it is simply harmonizing and changing language in the bill and from one definition to another. But what I will do is point out what I think are the main sections for you to consider. Section 5 of the bill talks about the fact that the Secretary of State is required to establish a free access system, such as a toll-free number or Internet web site which allows any voter who casts a provisional ballot to discover whether the vote was counted, and if the vote was not counted, the reason the vote was not counted. The Secretary of State is asked to establish and maintain reasonable procedures to protect the security, confidentiality and integrity of the information used by the free access system. Access to information about an individual's provisional ballot will be restricted to the individual who casts the ballot. We changed the name of the Federal Election Commission to the Election Assistance Commission in Section 9. And Section 16 talks about the fact that when you're voting on paper ballots that are manually counted or counted by optical scanners, filling in the oval or making a cross or other clear intelligible mark in the square constitutes a valid vote. When a voter is using an electronic voting system, a valid vote is defined as causing a mark to be recorded opposite the candidate or ballot question response for which the voter wishes to vote. And, of course, part of the underlying reason for this is that, otherwise, if you don't establish what a valid vote is and say that you have to fill in this, then all sorts of questions come up about voter intent and the machines miscounting some of these if they're not properly done. Section 17 says that the election commissioner or county clerk is required to post voting information in each polling place on the day of election and the information will include the date of the election and the hours during which the polls are open; instructions for voters who registered to vote by mail and first-time voters; general information on voting rights, including information on the right of an individual to cast a